

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.273

Reps. Kuppa, Brixie, Stone, Sowerby, Shannon, Hammoud, Rabhi, Koleszar, Greig, Garza, Elder, Kennedy, Cynthia Neeley, Tyrone Carter, Yancey, Hoadley, Warren, Wittenberg, Coleman and Cherry offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to oppose actions by the United States
2 Environmental Protection Agency relaxing the enforcement of
3 environmental rules in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

4 Whereas, The spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has
5 resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 213 countries and
6 other locations. In the most serious cases, this disease causes
7 serious respiratory illness and death, with death rates that are
8 notably higher than common viruses like influenza. In the United
9 States alone, there have been hundreds of thousands of confirmed
10 cases and tens of thousands of deaths with numbers continuing to



1 rise daily; and

2 Whereas, On March 26, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection
3 Agency (EPA) issued a memorandum announcing its temporary policy to
4 relax the enforcement of federal environmental rules. The policy
5 states that the EPA will use its enforcement discretion for
6 noncompliance covered by the policy and does not expect to seek
7 penalties for certain violations of environmental protection rules;
8 and

9 Whereas, Relaxing environmental rules that protect the health
10 of the public is not in the best interest of Americans at a time
11 when public health is already severely threatened by COVID-19. Safe
12 water is vital for preventing serious illness, both for consumption
13 and for following COVID-19 handwashing recommendations. Clean air
14 is important for everyone but particularly to protect individuals
15 with chronic conditions who are already more vulnerable to COVID-19
16 and its serious respiratory complications; and

17 Whereas, Death rates from COVID-19 are higher in counties with
18 higher levels of long-term air pollution according to a study
19 conducted at Harvard University. Even small increases in certain
20 types of air pollution lead to large increases in death rates from
21 COVID-19. The researchers conclude that the "study results
22 underscore the importance of continuing to enforce existing air
23 pollution regulations to protect human health both during and after
24 the COVID-19 crisis"; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we oppose
26 actions by the United States Environmental Protection Agency
27 relaxing the enforcement of environmental rules in response to the
28 novel coronavirus outbreak; and be it further

29 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the



- 1 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency
- 2 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.